



Department of State

ACTION MEMORANDUM
S/S

August 7, 1982

SECRET/SENSITIVE

State Dept. review completed

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: P - Under Secretary Eagleburger

FROM: EA - John H. Holdridge *JH*

SUBJECT: Developing a Public Affairs and Legislative Strategy on the Taiwan Arms Issue and Preparing to Deal with the Chinese in the Event of a Downgrading

ISSUE FOR DECISION

How to respond to a memorandum sent by Bill Clark to Acting Secretary Stoessel on July 15, asking us to develop a public affairs and legislative strategy for dealing with either a positive or negative resolution of our current discussions with Beijing on the Taiwan arms sales issue and to prepare a strategic outline for dealing with the PRC in the event diplomatic relations are downgraded.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

The NSC has asked us to develop strategies in the following four areas:

-- If we reach agreement with Beijing on a communique, we will need to have developed a public position (complementing appropriate confidential, private assurances) to take with the Taiwan leadership and others to assure them that Taiwan's future remains secure. This public position, taken in conjunction with arms sales and other reassurances, will be vital to Taiwan's future psychological well-being.

-- If we succeed, we will also need to continue to work with leaders on Capitol Hill to explain the thinking behind our approach and to indicate how we will be proceeding in our dealings with both Beijing and Taiwan. (That process has already begun in the course of my recent briefings.)

-- If we fail to reach agreement on a communique, we will need to construct a public affairs position, indicating that what we offered the PRC was a balanced and judicious effort to achieve a settlement. This explanation will need to be conveyed both domestically and to our allies.

-- Finally, if we do not reach agreement, we will need to have a new strategic outline for dealing with the PRC, with our diplomatic relations downgraded.

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RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the attached memorandum, with accompanying text, so that it may be sent to the White House.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachment:

Bremer-Clark Memorandum

Drafted: EA/C: DHarter: BS Schrage
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Clearances: EA/C: WFRope
EA: TPShoesmith
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